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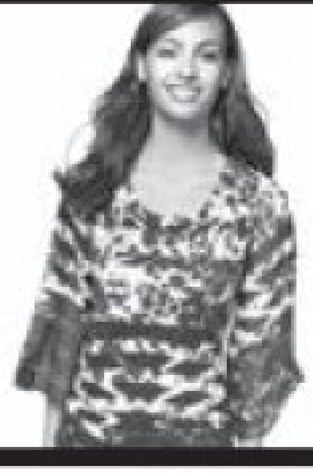

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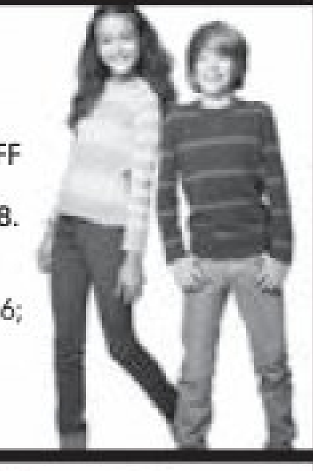

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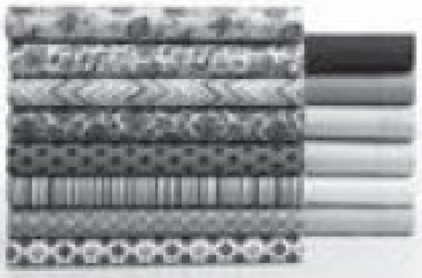

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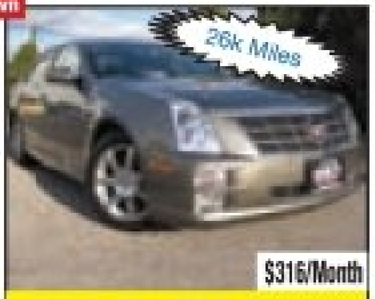

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KEVIN COSTNER: A CROWDFUNDER OF ONE

THE ACTOR MADE "BLACK OR WHITE" HAPPEN. PAGE 14

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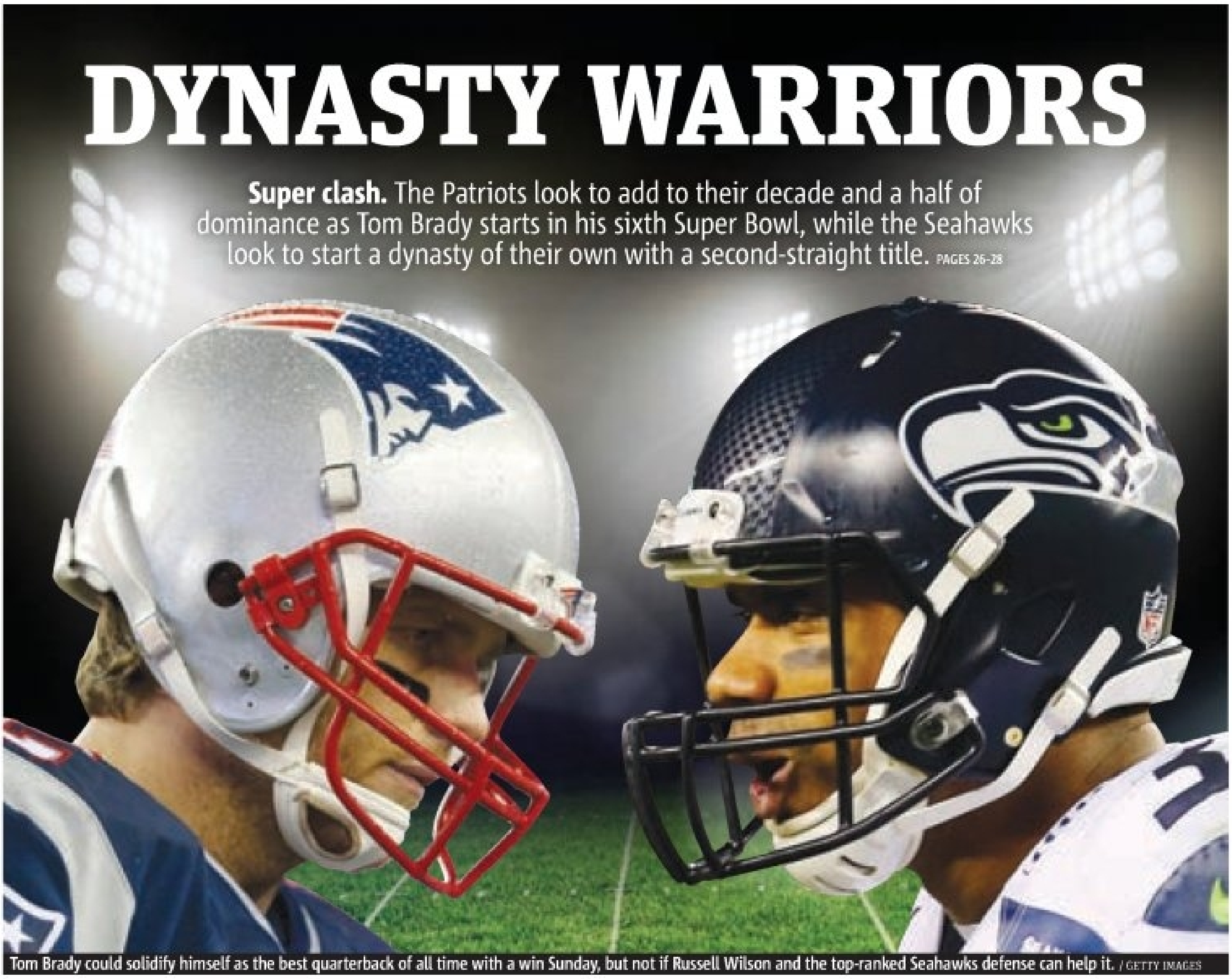
DYNASTY WARRIORS

Super clash. The Patriots look to add to their decade and a half of dominance as Tom Brady starts in his sixth Super Bowl, while the Seahawks look to start a dynasty of their own with a second-straight title. PAGES 26-28



Tom Brady could solidify himself as the best quarterback of all time with a win Sunday, but not if Russell Wilson and the top-ranked Seahawks defense can help it. / GETTY IMAGES

Meet the four mayoral candidates

PAGE 02

Ex-Judge Berry's corruption trial begins

PAGE 04

Juno was a chance to get happy: Did you?

PAGE 13

"Terrence McNally has just written his BEST PLAY!"
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The best of Metro.us

1 How to hit the dating scene after a breakup

2 The Kim Diaries: Sam Smith, Vogue, and public restrooms

3 Just a few more details on that Game of Thrones IMAX screening ...

On the go

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Four candidates and one key issue: Schools

Race is on. Four have already announced their intentions to take a run at the city's highest office.

Education, job creation and poverty are the three main issues facing the candidates for the Democratic nomination in the 2016 race for mayor of Philadelphia.

Former City Councilman Jim Kenney, who resigned his seat Thursday and officially announced his candidacy, joins three other candidates, former prosecutor Lynne Abraham; state Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams; and lawyer Nelson Diaz, a former Common Pleas Court judge. Three of the candidates interviewed — Diaz did not respond to multiple requests for comment — said all of the issues facing the city, from Millennials making Philadelphia their permanent home, to luring businesses to the area, come down to the city's beleaguered education system.

The candidates all agreed that a funding formula with the state needs to be resolved to give the school system some consistency.

Two others possible candidates for the job, former state Sen. Milton Street and Doug Oliver, formerly a spokesman for Mayor Michael Nutter are interested, but have yet to announce.

The Democratic primary is May 19.

TOMMY ROWAN
tommyrowan@metro.us

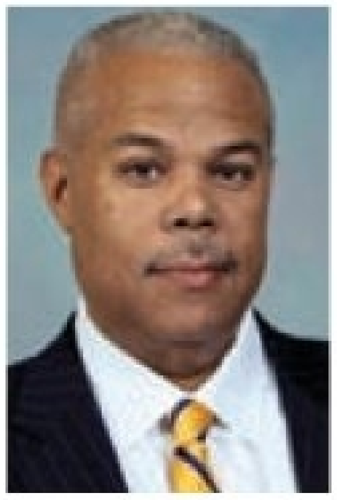
Visit **Metro.us** to read more about issues with the school system.

John B. Kelly Elementary School students being picked up by their parents Thursday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Jim Kenney

Kenney, a South Philadelphia native, officially resigned his at-large City Council seat, which he had held for 23 years, on Thursday morning.

"I don't have the answer on fixing the schools. ... I'm going to go hat in hand to Harrisburg to ask for money."



State Sen. Anthony Hardy Williams

Williams, who succeeded his father in his current position, has held the office since 1998.

"With my relationships in Harrisburg and my understanding of Philly I can help find a fair funding solution."

Lynne Abraham

Abraham graduated from Temple University's law school in 1965, and served as the city's district attorney for 18 years.

"I will assemble people from across Philadelphia to put our heads together and figure out how we can remedy a fair funding formula for this school system."

Nelson Diaz

Diaz served as a Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas judge from 1981 through 1993. He claims he was the first Latino judge in Pennsylvania history.

"I will die fixing the school system." [he told The Inquirer.]

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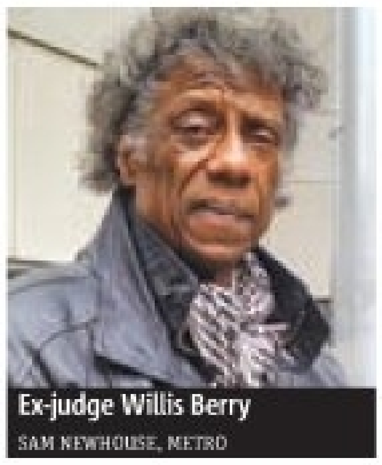
Preparing to launch and open new doors

Rasika Dharne, a Temple University masters student, compiles her notes from a recent venture meeting at the Blackstone LaunchPad, which opens today. The LaunchPad, funded by a $1.2 million grant, aims to help Temple students start their own companies. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Ex-judge goes to trial on corruption charges

Court. A former judge is contesting corruption charges months after a plea was reported.



Ex-judge Willis Berry
SAM NEWHOUSE, METRO

Former Philadelphia judge Willis Berry, 72, is scheduled to go to trial before a jury in April on charges of abusing his office — months after reports surfaced that he was about to plead guilty.

"There were pre-negotiations at one point, but those are now at a standstill," W. Fred Harrison, a lawyer for the former Court of Common Pleas judge, said after a pretrial conference Thursday.

"He doesn't acknowledge anything at this point," he said "He's going to be pleading not guilty."

Berry faces felony charges of restricted activities and theft of services for allegedly operating his landlord business out of his judicial offices in the courthouse, including using his secretary's services, while taxpayers footed the bill.

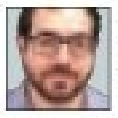
The Inquirer previously reported that plea negotiations broke down when Berry learned that a guilty plea would mean he'd lose the $6,000-a-month pension he's been receiving since he retired in 2012.

"Right now, that's one of the sticking points," Harrison said of the pension issue.

Berry, a Penn State and Temple Law grad, was charged by the office of Attorney General Kathleen Kane in May 2014.

He allegedly owned 16 properties, "including several multiunit rental properties," and managed them from his chambers from 1997 to 2007, according to a press release from the attorney general's office.

Prosecutors' accounts of what Berry had his court staff do read like a help-wanted ad for a real estate agency. Berry's court staff kept his business records, had tenants visit the courthouse for meetings, prepared leases and eviction proceedings, worked on marketing his properties, paid bills and handled his bank accounts.



SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

The charges

The state Judicial Conduct Board filed a complaint against Berry in December 2007. It was referred to the attorney general's office in July 2013.

- The delay in indicting Berry perplexed observers. Former Philadelphia DA Lynne Abraham reportedly said she could not charge Berry at the time his alleged misconduct was revealed.
- Trial is scheduled for April 13.

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NE Philly

'Mayfair tire slasher' faces second trial

David Toledo, 47, the so-called "Mayfair tire slasher," waived his right to a preliminary hearing Thursday on new tire-slashing charges.

Toledo got probation in May 2014 for slashing about 50 of his neighbors' tires in 2012.

On Nov. 19, around 5:30 a.m., Toledo was allegedly spotted propping a glue mouse trap with nails poking out under the tire of a SEPTA bus. **METRO**

David Toledo / PPD

SEPTA gives the green light for renovation of stations

Overdue. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2016.

Commuters at the City Hall station, which SEPTA will start renovating next year / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

City Hall's transit hub is finally getting its much-needed and long-overdue facelift.

SEPTA officials said Thursday that the $150 million renovation of the Market-Frankford Line's 15th Street station and the Broad Street Line's City Hall station will begin in 2016.

Structural construction on the El's 15th Street station will start first, in the spring of 2016 and it will remain open during the work. The subway's City Hall station will undergo renovations later in 2016.

It may be closed for a period of time, but further details are still unavailable.

Estimated completion of the 15th Street station is 2018. City Hall station will be completed by 2020.

SEPTA assistant general manager Robert L. Lund Jr. said the concourses would be widened and better lighting will be added.

Lund, who specializes in engineering, maintenance and construction, said fitting a combined 13 new elevator shafts down to the platforms in the two stations was the transit agency's biggest hurdle.

"Each station has their own constraints," Lund said, "and our design has to accommodate that."

"We all recognize that this is the center of our transit system and is need of repairs," he added. "And these structural constraints were such that years ago people were not quite sure it was possible to bring in elevators."

Another structural hurdle are the concrete pillars littered throughout the stations that actually hold up the city hall.

Lund said the pillars will be thinned out to create more room, but not much more can be done. The space, he said, is old and confined.

"It's not like I can make it bigger," he said.

By the numbers

29K

Each day, 29,000 riders pass through the two stations.

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Tech. Google revenue misses Wall Street's fourth-quarter target

Google's revenue grew 15 percent in the fourth quarter, but fell short of Wall Street's target on declining online ad prices and unfavorable foreign exchange rates.

Google's advertising revenue has come under pressure as more consumers access its online services on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets, where ad rates are typically lower.

The growing popularity of mobile devices has made No. 1 social network Facebook a greater threat in the battle for advertisers. Facebook reported on Wednesday that mobile ads on its network doubled year-over-year during the fourth quarter.

Google said on Thursday the average price of its online ads, or "cost per click," decreased 3 percent year-over-year in the fourth quarter, while the number of consumer clicks on its ads increased 14 percent.

Some analysts had hoped for gains in cost-per-click, said BGC Partners analyst Colin Gillis, adding that the company, which gets about half of its revenue overseas, also was hurt by the strong dollar. **REUTERS**

Google's Washington, D.C .headquarters / GETTY IMAGES

Super Bowl advertisers go long for big game

In 2011 Chrysler aired the first of its 'Imported From Detroit' Super Bowl spots. The carmaker convinced the NFL to expand one of its 90-second breaks to show the two-minute ode to Detroit, which was set to Eminem's "Lose Yourself." / GETTY IMAGES

Commercials. As brands look to pull your heartstrings, more Super Bowl spots are running 60 seconds or longer.

Thirty seconds is no longer enough on Super Bowl Sunday. Many advertisers would like a minute of your time, at least.

Last year's broadcast included 22 ads that ran for 60 seconds or longer, according to Kantar Media. These long-playing commercials accounted for 40 percent of all paid spots during the game, the most since at least 1984.

The Super Bowl — the only reliable opportunity to reach more than 100 million U.S. viewers at once — runs by its own rules. Brands now look at the big game as a chance to stir hearts, rather than show off products or get laughs. And those tears take time to pool. "You can tell a more emotional story in the extra 30 seconds," says Jason Deland, a founding partner at Anomaly, the agency behind a pair of 60-second ads from Budweiser during last year's game. "There has been a decided shift in the last half dozen years toward brands seeking credibility, substance, and authenticity." **BLOOMBERG**

Cost per spot

$4.2M

Super Bowl ads are sold in 30-second units; the average cost last year, according to Kantar, was $4.2 million per spot.

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Chairman of National Transportation Safety Commission Tatang Kurniadi briefs journalist about AirAsia flight QZ8501 during a press conference in Jakarta on Thursday. / GETTY IMAGES

Pilots disabled vital computers moments before AirAsia crash

Crash. The aircraft disappeared from radar en route to Singapore from Surabaya.

The pilots of AirAsia Flight 8501 cut power to a critical computer system that normally prevents planes from going out of control shortly before it plunged into the Java Sea, two people with knowledge of the investigation said.

The action appears to have helped trigger the events of Dec. 28, when the plane climbed so abruptly that it lost lift and it began falling with warnings blaring in the cockpit, the people said.

The pilots had been attempting to deal with alerts about the flight augmentation computers, which control the A320's rudder and also automatically prevent it from going too slow. After the initial attempts to address the alerts, the flight crew cut power to the entire system, which is comprised of two separate computers that serve as backups to each other, the people said.

While the information helps show how a normally functioning A320's flight-protection system could have been bypassed, it doesn't explain why the pilots pulled the plane into a steep climb, the people said. Even with the computers shut off, the pilots should have been able to fly the plane manually, they said.

Flight 8501 climbed more than 5,000 feet in less than 30 seconds, rising above the altitude where it was authorized to fly, Ertata Lananggalih, an investigator with Indonesia's National Transportation Safety Committee, said in Jakarta.

BLOOMBERG

Killed

162

All 162 aboard the Airbus Group NV A320 were killed.

Two dead, 66 injured. Gas truck blast rocks Mexico City hospital

A gas truck explosion destroyed large parts of a maternity hospital on the western edge of Mexico City on Thursday, killing one woman and a child and leaving dozens injured, Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said.

The head of national emergency services earlier said that seven people had died, but the death toll was revised down by Mancera, who said there had been confusion around the number.

Rescuers in Cuajimalpa, Mexico City. / GETTY IMAGES

One of the people who was believed to have died was actually in very serious condition, he added.

The explosion destroyed around 70 percent of the hospital and injured 66 people, 22 of them seriously, Mancera said. Three people have been detained for their roles in the gas truck explosion, and two of them have been hospitalized, he added.

Several babies were found alive under the rubble. Scores of rescue workers continued digging through the concrete and twisted metal for survivors.

REUTERS

Arizona battles measles outbreak before Super Bowl

People walk past the logo for the upcoming Super Bowl XLIX. / GETTY IMAGES

State's Department of Health Services. The outbreak is the first in Arizona since 2008.

Health officials in three Arizona counties said hundreds of people may have been exposed to the highly contagious measles virus, three days before thousands of sports fans pour into the state for the Super Bowl.

The National Football League championship game will be held in Maricopa County at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale on Feb. 1. Officials there, and in Pinal and Gila counties, are looking for people who have been to hospitals, grocery stores and a post office where infected residents visited.

Arizona has reported eight cases so far, two in Maricopa County. Measles is one of the most contagious diseases known to man, with each original patient able to infect many others if they aren't vaccinated. Maricopa health workers are trying to track down 195 people, mostly children, Jeanene Fowler, a spokeswoman for the county health department said in an e-mail Thursday.

The virus can linger in the air or on surfaces for hours, and health officials are trying to track down those exposed. Maricopa's county health department said that people who have potentially been exposed and aren't fully vaccinated should stay at home for 21 days. People who may have been exposed should wear a mask if they need to go out in public, the department said in a Jan. 27 statement.

The Arizona cases are linked to a California outbreak where officials have identified 79 cases of the disease, which started in Anaheim's Disneyland amusement park. Cases linked to the outbreak have also been found in Utah, Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Michigan and Nebraska, according to the California Department of Public Health. **REUTERS**

Quoted

> **Measles is wildly infectious, which is why it is so important that we identify cases quickly and do our best to stop the spread early on."**
>
> **Bob England** director of the Maricopa County Department of Public Health, said in a statement.

Convicted

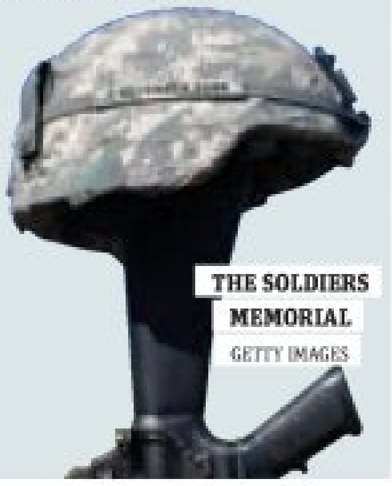
Ft. Hood killer faces military hearing in Kansas

Former U.S. Army major Nidal Hasan appeared in a military court on Thursday for a procedural hearing related to his capital punishment conviction for the 2009 shooting spree at Fort Hood in Texas that killed 13 people and wounded 32 others.

The hearing at a military post in Kansas addressed two administrative matters. The first was to inform Hasan of the status of the record of the trial and the second concerned a change in status for a trial defense attorney, the U.S. Army said.

Hasan, 44, is being confined in the death sentence inmate housing unit at Fort Leavenworth in Kansas, where the hearing took place. The death sentence is subject to an automatic appeal.

Hasan, an American-born Muslim, opened fire at Fort Hood on Nov. 5, 2009, targeting unarmed soldiers preparing for deployment in an attack he later called retaliation for U.S. wars in the Muslim world.



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Snow happy

Winter blues. Snowstorm Juno was your chance to break the cycle – did you miss it?

The grind of winter can wear down even the most cheerful person. The cold has us reaching for comfort foods that actually leave us feeling worse, and it seems like whatever time of day we step outside, it's dark and feels too late to do anything.

"We look at winter in a way that is different than the other seasons," says Dr. Freida Birnbaum, a New Jersey-based psychologist.

"We tend to go into ourselves, we tend to eat foods that really do affect our moods — carbs — and socializing less as well. None of these have to happen."

The dip in the body's level of the feel-good hormone serotonin happens as naturally and inevitably as fall. But that doesn't mean your mood has to follow.

"The problem here is people feel they have to have some kind of fix, medication, therapy — not the case," says Birnbaum.

Given all that, it may have been hard to see that Snowstorm Juno's mildness was a great chance to jolt yourself out of your winter rut. Here's how not to let the cold or another excuse keep you from enjoying your next not-so-snowy snow day.

Think yourself warm

Get over the cold

Try this trick: Before going outside, close your eyes and imagine yourself on a beach in Florida. "If you think of yourself being in a warmer climate, that helps to warm you up," says Birnbaum. "What seems to be the wrong thing to do (going out) really feels much better in the long run."

Do a gut check

Would you have stayed cooped up in your apartment if you'd gotten an unexpected day off in, say, May? Probably not, so why not do what you would've done then? "It's a wonderful chance to really trust your judgement and know that what doesn't work is giving yourself a message that to be inside, to isolate yourself is good for you," says Birnbaum.

Bad weather is an opportunity

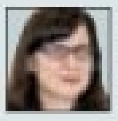
It's hard to think of the world beyond the routines we set ourselves, but do it anyway. Find out what happens outside your office on a Tuesday. Take a different exercise class. Change the path of your usual walk to the train — maybe you'll find a new favorite spot, and the exploration will get you used to seeing novelty in a place you don't expect.

It's just not possible to be unhappy while playing in the snow. / ISTOCK

Get outside

Snow is therapeutic

Your body will love the additional sunlight reflecting off the snow, and after months of early darkness and gray skies it's refreshing to see the world suddenly gilded and shining. "Snow brightens up the environment around you and can really be beautiful — if you can look at it that way," says Birnbaum.



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Funny guy

His greatest role

Let's make a bold claim: Costner may think he's a serious thespian and artist, one who glowered up a storm in "Dances with Wolves." But drama isn't his real thing. It's comedy. His finest turn, the one for the history books, is, in our opinion, "Bull Durham." Apart from being the greatest sports movie ever made — which is to say one that's not really about sports — it allows him to be funny, charming and kind of a jerk, all at once. Best of all? In an early monologue he gets to be right about the assassination of John F. Kennedy: "I believe Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone." Take that, Oliver Stone.
— MATT PRIGGE

Jillian Estell plays the granddaughter of Kevin Costner in "Black or White." / TRACEY BENNETT

"Black or White" finds Kevin Costner and Octavia Spencer locked in a heated custody battle. / TRACEY BENNETT

Kevin Costner does it himself

Interview. No one would pay for the race drama "Black or White." So Costner put up the money — all of it.

Kevin Costner made "Black or White" happen. In it he plays Elliot, a recently widowed, alcoholic lawyer battling for custody of his mixed-race granddaughter, Eloise. His rival is Rowena (Octavia Spencer), Eloise's maternal grandmother, who thinks she should move from the richest part of Los Angeles to the "black" neighborhood with her. But the film doesn't pick sides.

"I just thought it was an honest story from the very first page. I felt like I was reading something really authentic," he says. Costner was so drawn to the script, written by his old "The Upside of Anger" filmmaker, Mike Binder, that he wound up paying for it. When no one else came round, he put up his own money — $9 million of it.

"I was hoping other people would rush to the movie and see the same potential and value in it that I did, but unfortunately that didn't happen," he says.

Not that his character is some white savior, or even that good. Elliot's battles with Rowena betray his own prejudices. He thinks Eloise is already "living in one of the safest neighborhoods in L.A.," he boasts, and shouldn't move to the Rowena's part of the city.

"Elliot was comfortable in that environment, visiting and socializing with Eloise's family, but he instinctually still thought his granddaughter would be safer with him," says Costner. Still, the movie subtly condemns his stance. "Racism doesn't have to be overt. This is where the veil of racism is lifted, when he thinks she wouldn't be safe in that 'other' neighborhood."

"But Elliot travels far in this movie and comes to understand himself better," he adds.

It was a bit of a parallel for Costner, who adds that examining those covert attitudes in a narrative made him feel "more empowered." "People say they're color-blind when they want to explain they are without prejudice. But to say you're color-blind is disingenuous. You do see differences. The key is to understand those differences."

The tale may not have been epic enough for big Hollywood studios to take notice, but Costner hopes that audiences will at least be surprised by the film and the things it says. "It's a simple story about life," he says. "It doesn't solve anything. It's about the well-being of a child and what's best for the child and race shouldn't be rolled into those sorts of things."

LIZ BROWN
letters@metro.us

KEVIN COSTNER
GETTY IMAGES

Comeback

Back up front

Once upon a time Kevin Costner was the biggest movie star in the world. He was even, in the era of "Dances with Wolves" and "Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves," able to help turn a three-hour conspiracy theory movie about the JFK assassination (since basically disproven) into a box office behemoth. A few flops snipped his wings, and he's rarely stepped into the spotlight. (One notable exception is 2007's enjoyable, totally insane "Mr. Brooks," though he was really just the calm in the center of a mad storm.)

The last two years have seen him returning to the front of movies; last year he had the Luc Besson-shepherded thriller "3 Days to Kill," as well as the inside baseball (or, in that case, football) drama "Draft Day." But Costner has also proven himself in the last decade as a winning supporting actor. Freed from being in the spotlight, he's able to loosen up and fall back on his not always utilized goofy charm. In fact, "Black or White" filmmaker Mike Binder exploited just that in 2005's "The Upside of Anger," in which he played the lady-killer who helps a boozing Joan Allen get over the death of her husband. In 2010's "The Company Men," he takes a huge amount of joy in busting the balls of Ben Affleck's fallen business shark. And last year he snuck in moments of wry hilarity as the mentor of Chris Pine in the origin story "Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit." — **MATT PRIGGE**

KEVIN COSTNER HAS FUN ROMANCING JOAN ALLEN IN "THE UPSIDE OF ANGER."
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Jude Law under water

Interview. The Oscar nominee talks about pretending to be on a submarine for 'Black Sea.'

Jude Law isn't too sympathetic if you're an American having trouble grasping his Scottish accent in the new English submarine picture "Black Sea." "Imagine what it's like for us when we watch your films," he playfully charges back. "American accents are sometimes so hard. You have to listen harder." Humor is important when it comes to "Black Sea," a dark thriller in which down-and-out mariners take to a rusty submarine to hunt for Nazi gold on the sea floor. But the film's tone never quite got Law down.

He likes challenges: "Every part in every film has its hurdles. That's often part of the fun. It's not like I said I'd do this film but I don't like confined spaces. … I love the physical stuff. It was nearly a week we spent on the sea, and towards the end we were getting rather wet. I loved all that stuff. It was hard work, but it's like being a boy, pretending you're on a submarine. I got to do it kind of for real."

Hanging out with actual submariners: "There was a lot of singing, a lot of very rude language and insane humor. A lot of ribbing. I went on a royal naval submarine. There was a way they communicated with each other. It was mostly incredibly derogatory. They'd put each other down all the time. But you'd have to laugh at it. You couldn't take yourself seriously. Weirdly, that started to seep into us as a team."

Did anyone pick on him?: "No one took the Mickey out of me — at least not in front of me. Dear Bobby [Schofield], who plays Tobin [a teen who joins the team] — it was his first film. He got a lot."

Does he actually have a favorite role?: "It's always the last one I play. In truth, it really is because it's usually the one I remember best."

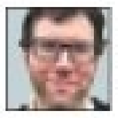
Jude Law plays a submarine captain out for Nazi gold in "Black Sea," out now. / FOCUS FEATURES

"EVERY PART IN EVERY FILM HAS ITS HURDLES. THAT'S OFTEN PART OF THE FUN," SAYS LAW.
GETTY IMAGES

Bonus quote

That accent

"It's a very specific Scottish accent. ... I like the idea of hinting at where he came from. It made sense that he didn't sound like a Southeast Londoner, which is my accent. Nor indeed did we want him, for obvious reasons, to sound rather generally upper class. We wanted him to come from somewhere coastal. I liked that he was an echo of his father's experience at the hands of the powers-that-be. Aberdeen is this coastal town, actually called Granite City, known in the '70s for having this huge dock that was shut down by the government. I had this idea that his father was one of those guys who lost his job and his dignity, and now it's happening to him."



MATT PRIGGE
@mattprigge
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Review

'Wild Card'

●●○○○

A remake of the semi-forgotten, 1987 Burt Reynolds vehicle "Heat," this thriller/character study stars Jason Statham as a troubled enforcer hired as the bodyguard in Vegas.

The lowdown: At risk of overselling his bona fides, Statham is a real actor. His roles rarely call on him to speak, which is a shame, as he's a great, fun-filled jokester with an infectious, mischievous laugh. That "Wild Card" employs these traits at all is cause for celebration — and it's almost enough to excuse its many foundational issues. This is a shaggy dog picture that never gets too serious; even the character closest to a main baddie, a cocky mafioso played by Milo Ventimiglia, is all bluster, just waiting to get his punchy comeuppance. But it's minor to the point of distraction. Still, "Card" can be charming. Written by William Goldman ("Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid"), it's driven more by characters than beat downs, which it has trouble integrating into its story. Still, this is almost the kind of movie Statham should be making. **MATT PRIGGE**

Jason Statham plays a badass-for-hire with a drinking and a gambling problem in "Wild Card." / LIONSGATE

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The short "Butter Lamp" features people posing in front of fake backdrops, just like this. / BUTTER LAMP

Minis. Improve your Oscar pool chances by seeing the nominated live-action and animated shorts

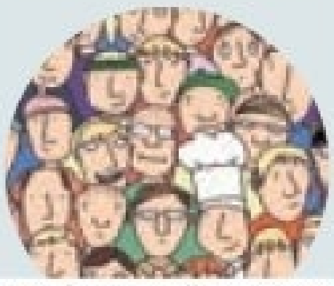
Live-action: Traditionally, this section has been the Academy's worst. The live-action committee seems to like a particular type of short: an overly earnest, sad, banal mini-film that usually ends with a cheap twist. Only two here end with cheap rug-pulling: "Aya," in which an Israeli woman (Sarah Adler) whimsically pretends to be the driver of a Danish music researcher (Ulrich Thomsen); and "Boogaloo and Graham," a boisterous look at two kids living with the Troubles in Belfast.

Of the other three, "Parvaneh" offers fun yet predictable night-on-the-town antics between a young Afghan immigrant in a Swiss city and a same-aged rebel, while "The Phone Call" is a grossly rib-nudging weepie about a suicide hotline center saved by the peerless professionalism of its two actors: Sally Hawkins and, heard but not seen, Jim Broadbent. There is an odd duck: "Butter Lamp," a purely avant-garde comedy with a single camera set-up, watching as Tibetan nomads sit for pictures in front of fake backdrops. It offers people-watching along with cryptic social commentary — a combo too singular for even the Oscars to ignore.

Visit **Metro.us** to watch the cast of "Project Almanac" try to ace our Time Travel Trivia Pop Quiz.

What will win (probably): "The Phone Call" has genuinely great actors classing up a genuinely sad (if questionably tidy) situation.

MATT PRIGGE


THE CANADIAN "ME AND MY MOULTON" USES ANIMATION TO EXPLORE MEMORIES.
ME AND MY MOULTON

Animation: This is a relatively off year, which is to say it's only sometimes wonderful. Both "The Bigger Picture" (concerning an elderly mother's death) and "The Dam Keeper" (about a sad pig) have smudgy textures, but weak content. The bright spots never shine too bright. A two-minute quickie, "A Single Life," expertly milks a gimmick, then gets out of there. Disney's "Feast," shown in front of "Big Hero 6," cleverly portrays a break-up from an eternally ravenous mutt – though, this being Disney, of course it has a happy ending. The closest to a standout is the Canadian "Me and My Moulton," a remembrance piece that uses animation to track the way memories work.

What will win (probably): "The Dam Keeper" is just sappy enough to steal the trophy from the more entertaining/accomplished "Feast."

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Octavia Spencer wants Kevin Costner to relinquish control over their mutual grandchild (and quit boozing) in Mike Binder's "Black or White." / TRACY BENNETT

Review

'Black or White'

Director: Mike Binder

Stars: Kevin Costner,
Octavia Spencer

Rating: PG-13

●●○○○

Drama. Kevin Costner drinks his way through messy race film 'Black or White'

Kevin Costner plays a recent widower trapped in a fierce custody battle over his mixed-race granddaughter (Jillian Estell), whose maternal grandmother (Octavia Spencer) thinks she should live with her, not in a rich Los Angeles neighborhood.

The lowdown: "Black or White" is one of the messiest films ever made, which is to say it's hard to knock down (or praise). It's a look at modern race relations, but one with few concrete ideas. It's a button-pusher that nonetheless lacks conviction — which, considering some of the things it half-says, is probably a good thing. It's a serious, occasionally melodramatic drama that also takes delight in Kevin Costner playing a grieving but sometimes enjoyably pissed-off drunk. Its problems often also serve as saving graces. And yet a film on this subject also feels grossly insufficient being released in the current cultural climate. And yet on top of that, while grasping madly for straws, it gets its hands on a couple of them, perhaps because one would have to.

To its credit, and despite the title, "Black of White" doesn't try to pick sides, and at its best it freely pokes holes in both Costner's and Spencer's characters' arguments. This could have been insufferable whitesplaining, especially considering it's by writer-director Mike Binder, whose "The Mind of the Marrying Man" is one of the whitest things ever to play TV. Instead it's only somewhat that, always pulling its reckless punches right before they land.

Is that because Binder lost his nerve or came to his senses? Probably a little bit of both. In fact, it's hard to ever get a real handle on "Black or White," which keeps teetering between extremes. Its humorous subplots seem less like comic relief than excuses for it to not seriously engage with the copious issues it raises. (The only joke that really slays is an epic stare-off between Spencer and the black female judge she assumed would blindly rule in her favor.) This isn't another "Crash," and its comic side does subtract from any potential pomposity. It genuinely feels like Binder knows he's not making a statement but merely raising questions that don't have easy solutions. Then again, given how little the film says and the shrugging banality of its unimaginative resolution, it probably never needed to exist at all. **MATT PRIGGE**

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Sub movie. Jude Law commands a sea-worthy ocean treasure hunt

Jude Law, center, plays a submarine captain out for Nazi gold in "Black Sea." / FOCUS FEATURES

Donning a Scottish accent, Jude Law plays a recently fired aquatic lifer who agrees to a harebrained scheme: manning a rusty Russian submarine, he and his crew will sneak into the Black Sea to find a sunken World War II vessel thought to be stocked with Nazi gold.

The lowdown: It's hard to screw up a submarine picture, and "Black Sea" does deliver the goods. But it also thinks bigger. It's a sub movie spliced with a heist picture, plus an angry class drama. There are hairpin turns aplenty, but that's not where the real pleasure lies. It's in the way "Black Sea" chugs along, blending its genres into a thick stew. When it's time to go outside the sub, it even resembles a space movie, the ocean floor looking like a sticky alien landscape with characters moving in slow-motion through near dark. (The similarities to the sci-fi genre don't end there: One of its characters — a whiny corporate stooge played by token Yank Scott McNairy — soon starts to recall Paul Reiser in "Aliens.")

The director is Kevin Macdonald, who's an all-over-the-place Renaissance man. He's done documentaries ("Touching the Void," "Marley"), self-important Oscar bait ("The Last King of Scotland") and historical fluff ("The Eagle") without excelling at any. With "Black Sea," Macdonald finds himself; this is a sturdy genre film with just enough ambition to be something more. His frames are claustrophobic and dirty; the colors are piercing blues, reds and piss-yellows. It's tough and pitiless, save for infrequent dips into Robinson's rosy past with his MIA wife, and a subplot detailing his paternal relationship with the teenage son (Bobby Schofield) of a dead friend, who's come on board for lack of anything better in his life. It's debatable that "Black Sea" goes too nice in its final stretch, but not before treating a good chunk of its cast to the worst kind of death imaginable. **MATT PRIGGE**

Review

'Black Sea'

Director: Kevin Macdonald

Stars: Jude Law, Scott McNairy

Rating: R

● ● ● ● ○

Review

'Mommy'

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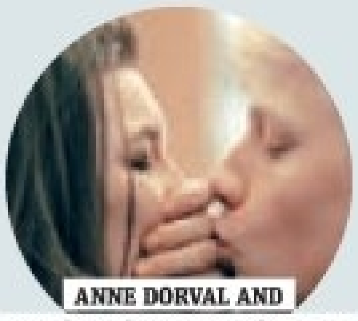
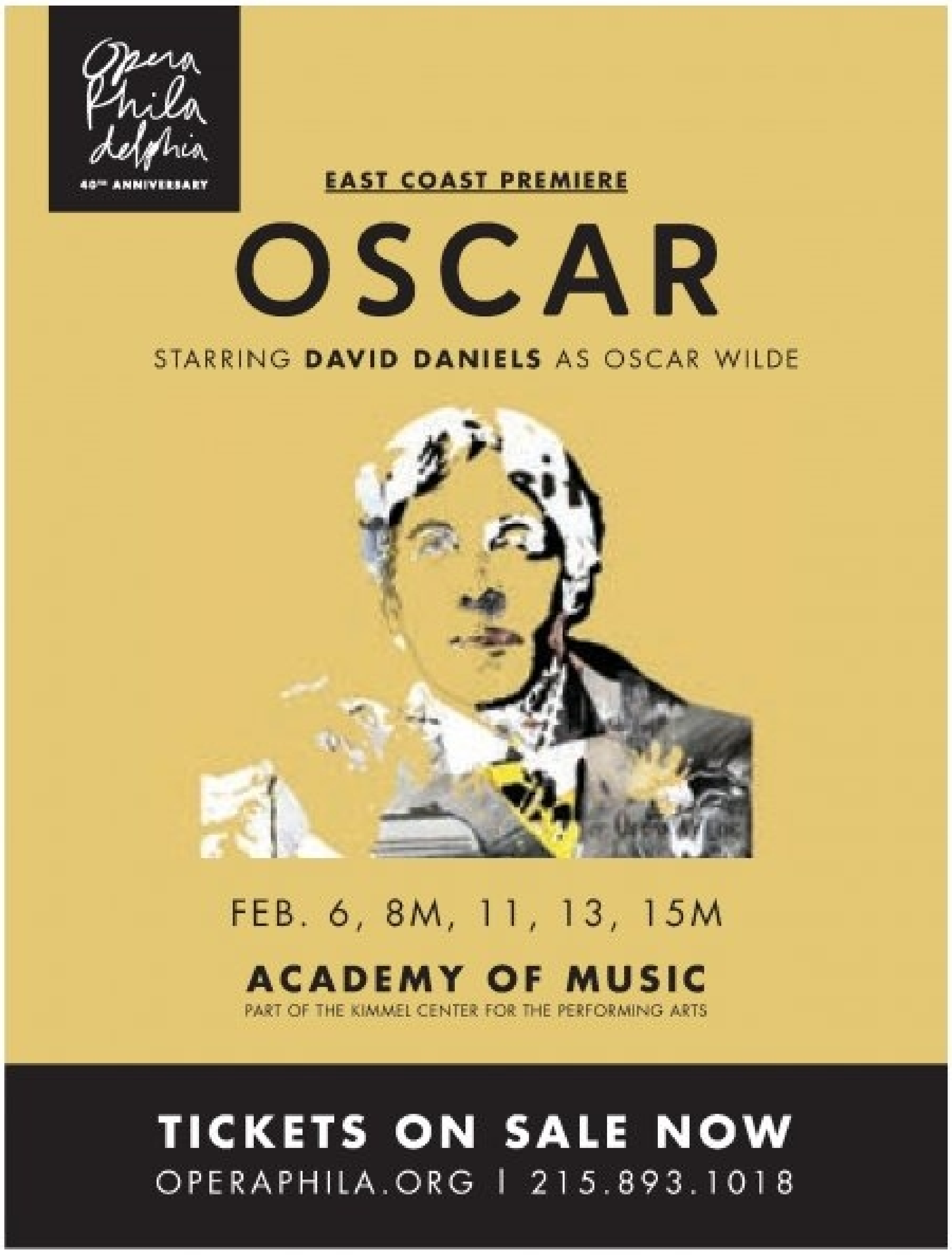


ANNE DORVAL AND ANTOINE-OLIVIER PILON PLAY MOTHER AND SON IN XAVIER DOLAN'S "MOMMY."
ROADSIDE ATTRACTIONS

Don't hate Xavier Dolan just because he's only 25 and four of the five films he's directed have debuted at Cannes. His latest is another attention-grabber, in part because of the weird shape of its imagery: A keyed-up drama about a teenage hellion (Antoine-Olivier Pilon) watched over by both his mother (Anne Dorval) and their mousy neighbor (Suzanne Clement), it's shot in a box-shaped aspect ratio thinner than even old TVs.

It's a gimmick but not a cheap one: the narrowness of the images reflects the way the three characters form a closed-off unit, shuttering themselves from the world in a way that feels liberating but is not meant to last. As ever, Dolan seems to have made his film instinctually, doing what feels right. It usually feels spot-on but goes extra-transcendent the two times the frame suddenly and thrillingly opens up — before closing back down. **MP**



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Communication

Compliment more than criticize

If finding faults in your spouse is a knee-jerk reaction for you, it could be toxic to your marriage. According to Bowman, research has shown that happily married couples tend to compliment one another five times as often as they criticize each other.

"It's one of those things that needs to be a habit," she says. "One of the reasons it can really help is that we're experts at finding problems, but we're out of practice with finding the beauty in our lives."

"Start by looking for kindness," Bowman says. "How was my spouse kind to me today? You might come up blank at first, but then it becomes really easy."

MARIANNE HAYES
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How to have your happily ever after

Expert tips. A successful partnership takes effort.

Most of us have heard the commonly parroted statistic that half of all marriages end in divorce. The good news, experts say, is that the real divorce rate is actually much lower — roughly one-quarter of first-time marriages end in divorce, according to a 2014 CBS News report. The report also found that four out of five married couples are indeed happy.

So what do these happily married folks know that the rest of us don't? According to Alisa Bowman, marriage expert and author of "Project: Happily Ever After," having trust in your relationship is key.

"At one point, my marriage was pretty bad, and now it's really good," Bowman says. "One of the main differences when I compare the two is that now, I always know we're going to be OK. I have this trust in our relationship that I didn't have before."

Looking to live happily ever after? Here are a handful of relationship tips that Bowman has learned through her research and her own time in the trenches.

Your partner's needs are just as important as yours

"What I have found from interacting with unhappily married people, and

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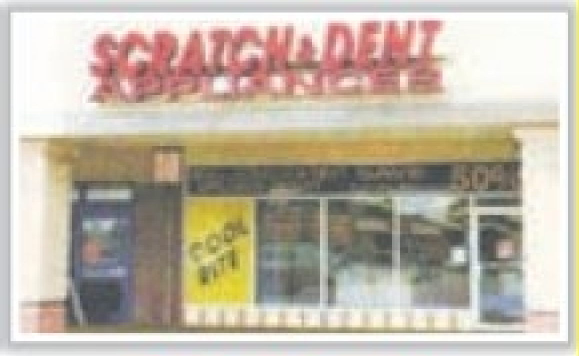
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The wedding day is the easy part of the marriage. / ISTOCK

from being a former unhappily married person, is that when your relationship goes bad, you start to have this false belief that your stuff is more important than your partner's stuff," Bowman says. Learn how to compromise and focus on strengthening the partnership.

Let's get physical

Make time for touching

Regular touching is a surefire way to up the intimacy in your relationship. This doesn't necessarily mean sexual touching, although that's equally important. It's more about finding subtle ways to physically connect with your partner. When couples are happier, they're more likely to hug.

"If you want to feel more connected, touch is something that can bring you closer initially," Bowman advises.

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Picture this finished, with a bartender pouring you a draft cocktail. / ALL PHOTOS LAUREN MAME THOMAS

Sneak peek. Teddy Sourias is opening a new bar right next to Bru.

Cocktails in a subway station may not sound like an ideal way to spend happy hour — but that's because you're thinking of Market East.

Teddy Sourias is about to open a second German-themed spot near 13th and Chestnut to go with his Bru Craft & Wurst, and this one takes you underground.

U-Bahn, named after the subway in Berlin, is a basement-level bar/restaurant/music venue with an European vibe. Picture oversized matte tiles on the walls, polished concrete floors, plenty of steel and reclaimed wood, and a bar made of textured black granite.

"It's a trendy, upscale, really cool look," says Sourias. "I was originally going to just open up a space for private parties, but then this idea all came together — it took about seven or eight months of design work."

The soon-to-open spot is touted as an intimate music venue, but Sourias doesn't want potential customers limiting it to that. "I prefer not to be considered just a music venue. Then people only come from 10 to 2 for the music," he explains. "We're in a prime location and we have more to offer than cool bands. There's food. Really cool beers. Really cool, old-school arcade games."

If you go

U-Bahn

1320 Chestnut St.
Opening early February

RACHEL VIGODA
@rachelatmetro
rachel.vigoda@metro.us

'Chef-ed up'

Cocktails on draft

The food is a different menu than upstairs at Bru: Expect cheeseboards, organic veggies and "chaffed up sandwiches, not Wawa hoagies" washed down with ShawneeCraft birch beer, Teddy Sourias says.

There's plenty of actual beer too, with an emphasis on local breweries. U-Bahn is also pouring kegged cocktails, both for the fermentation benefits (the flavors soak in longer) and to speed up serving time.

"When it's five deep at the bar on a busy Friday night and you want an actual cocktail, with seven ingredients and muddled orange, no one is going to go through the process of creating that," Sourias says. "But if we're kegging it ahead of time, we can give you a gourmet cocktail on draft. People are going to love that."

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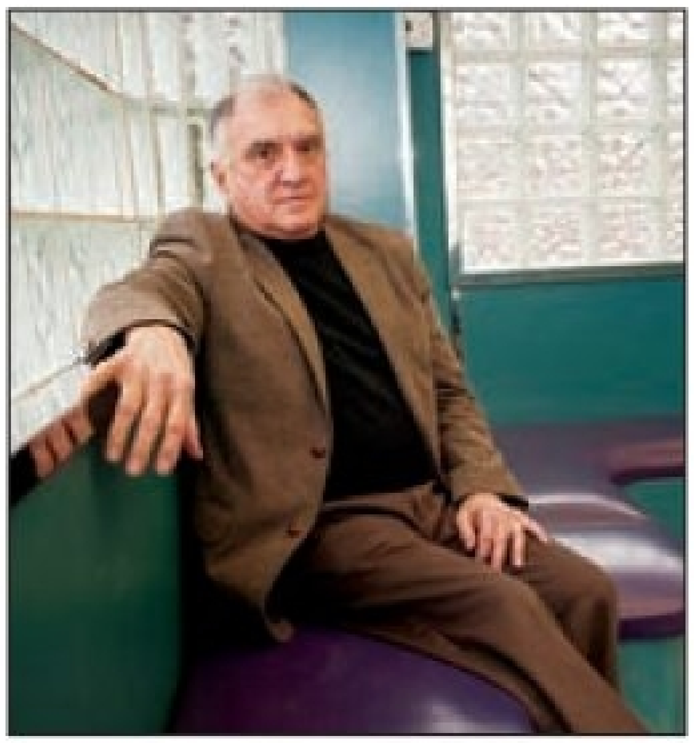
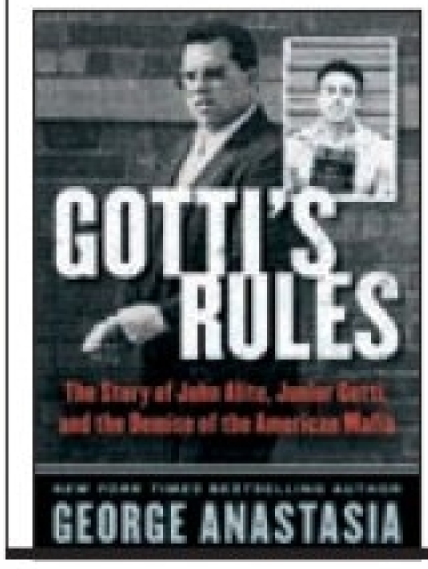


photo by maria pouchnikova

AN EXCERPT FROM MOB REPORTER **GEORGE ANASTASIA'S LATEST BOOK, "GOTTI'S RULES,"** AND A **Q AND A WITH ANASTASIA.**



GOTTI'S RULES
The Story of John Alite, Junior Gotti, and the Demise of the American Mafia
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
GEORGE ANASTASIA

City Paper returns with Anastasia to the Marlton, N.J., diner where he met with former mob hitman John Alite for nearly a year's worth of interviews for the new book. In it, Alite tells his story of the New York underworld and gives an insider's view of the Gottis and the Gambino crime family. Read an excerpt about his dealings in Philly.

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Bieber wants you to know he has a lot of feelings

You guys, Justin Bieber is worried about his image. Enter Ellen. / ELLENTV / FACEBOOK

A recent visit to "Ellen" apparently prompted Justin Bieber to take to Facebook to record a dimly lit confessional video detailing his personal insecurities about how he's come off over the past year. And he's just trying to be Justin, guys. "It's been a minute since I've been in a public appearance, and I didn't want to come off arrogant or conceited — basically how I've been acting the past year, year-and-a-half," he says of his interview with Ellen DeGeneres. "I'm not what I was pretending to be. Why I say I was pretending is often we pretend to be something we're not as a cover up of what we're truly feeling inside. And there was a lot of feelings going on in there. … Just being young and growing up in this business is hard. Just growing up in general is hard." If this is how he reacts to a sit-down with DeGeneres, maybe this whole Comedy Central roast thing isn't such a great idea.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
@Nedrick
ned.ehrbar@metro.us

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie eyeing yet another film project together

Apparently the one thing holding Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie back from trying to recapture that "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" on-screen magic was not actually being married, since now that they've tied the knot they can't seem to stop working together. The pair spent their honeymoon filming the romantic drama "By the Sea," which Jolie also directed. Now Pitt is in talks to star in Jolie's next directorial effort, "Africa," according to The Wrap. I guess when she finds an actor she likes, she really sticks with him.

GETTY IMAGES

Daily video

The mediocre video is interspersed with cute moments like this.
KANYEWEST.COM

New Kanye West video is a triumph of not trying

Man, Kanye West is getting really good at wasting amazing resources, from collaborator Paul McCartney to video director Spike Jonze to his own talent. Take, for example, the video he just released for "Only One," co-written by McCartney. The song itself ruins a great melody with West's auto-tune-drenched vocals, and the video — ostensibly shot by an amazing director — could just have easily been done by Kim Kardashian holding a GoPro. It features low-resolution footage of West traipsing around on a rainy day with daughter North West. And while their interactions are sweet and genuine, the lack of effort in everything involved is distracting.

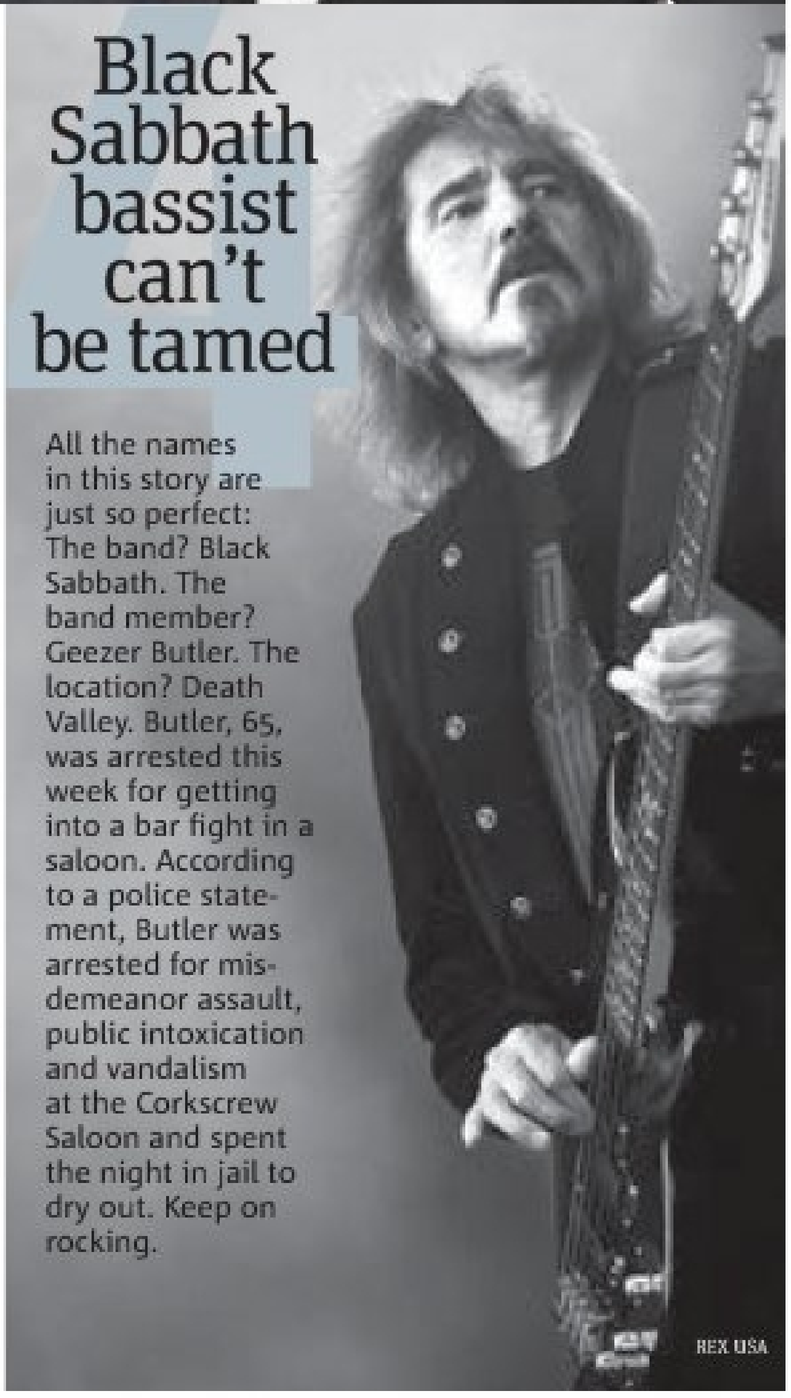
You can watch the whole video yourself at West's website, www.kanyewest.com.

It can be tough being the third Middleton

James Middleton, pictured with sister Pippa. Despite how it looks here, it's not all laughs being a non-royal Middleton. / REX USA

When you think of the name Middleton, you think Kate, right? Beyond that, probably Pippa. But don't forget about James. Can being the younger brother to the Duchess of Cambridge — one of the most famous women in the world — be a bit frustrating? "Yes, it does get frustrating," James Middleton tells iPad magazine, The Young Director. "I work incredibly hard — just like every other person in business and work. And aside from the fact of — yes, I am the brother of someone very important — I am, at the end of the day, just James." So have some sympathy, you guys.

Black Sabbath bassist can't be tamed



All the names in this story are just so perfect: The band? Black Sabbath. The band member? Geezer Butler. The location? Death Valley. Butler, 65, was arrested this week for getting into a bar fight in a saloon. According to a police statement, Butler was arrested for misdemeanor assault, public intoxication and vandalism at the Corkscrew Saloon and spent the night in jail to dry out. Keep on rocking.

REX USA

Letters to the editor

Beauty's only skin deep

Re: 'From farm to beauty cabinet' (Metro, Jan. 29) Sheesh. First of all, ingredients used in everything from Coca-Cola to gummy bears are used in the car industry and people have been ingesting them for years upon years and live to tell the tale. Secondly, I'm sorry that your stepfather has cancer but what does that have to do with natural makeup? I somehow doubt he got cancer from wearing "processed" makeup.

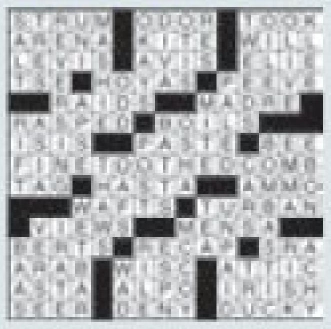
We live in a world full of semis and school buses blasting black exhaust fumes; where people burn plastic, waste and each other for Christ's sake. And lastly, I must say — your anti-aging obsession saddens me and truly makes me feel bad for you and people like you. Why not spend five years working with a biologist and chemist to develop a cure for a disease or something worthwhile? People who think they need anti-aging this and that, "natural" botox, a $55 resurfacing mask are just horribly sad and insecure adults.

To piss and moan and spend all this time that could be used on something meaningful on worrying about your wrinkles and wanting to "plump your fat cells" is honestly pathetic.

Why not feature speakers, philanthropists, people who contribute in a positive and meaningful way to the world and the city instead of wasting our time with this trash.

JENN MATRONE-CLARK, VIA EMAIL

Thursday's answer



WASHINGTON AT THE SUPER BOWL

Opinion

TOM FOREMAN

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT FOR CNN

In all of American lore, few fables have survived so stoutly as that of little George Washington whacking a cherry tree, then bravely admitting it: "I cannot tell a lie." Which is interesting, because the ghost of George Washington came to visit me last night to talk about the Super Bowl.

"So what's going on with this big game? Football, is it? Did I hear correctly that there are billions of dollars at stake, and people watching around the world?"

"That's right," I said, sitting up and rubbing my eyes. "And Katy Perry is doing half time. She's a singer."

"Ah, no doubt she'll let fly with a good hornpipe like we enjoyed in Gadsby's tavern!"

"Maybe. Why are you here?"

"I've come to talk about integrity," he said. "Word reached me in the afterlife that there is some question of malfeasance."

"Mmm, yeah. The team from Boston has been accused of deflating the balls, and Seattle's defenders grab like teenagers on a date."

"So the game is to figure out who can break the rules best without getting caught? I thought that was what Congress was for."

We chatted for a while about how concepts like "character" and "values" have become, in too many circles, relics of bygone days. And how wealth and winning, no matter how they are achieved, have been elevated to the status of de facto virtues ... in sports, business, politics and more.

"Still," I asked, "do you really think we've changed that much?"

"Seems like it," Washington said. "I mean, we had cheaters in my day too, and you can argue the whole system was rigged to help wealthy planters and slave owners. But I think people were a little more ashamed and contrite when they got caught."

"Perhaps. Look, I'm kind of tired," I said. "You can come back for the game if you want. We'll have nachos."

"Thanks, I'll pass. I'm binge watching The Good Wife on my DVR. But for the record, I'll pick the Patriots to win."

"Honestly?"

"Ha!" he said. "Good one."

CNN POLITICS

Sudoku: Easy and hard

		3			6	5		
		4		3				7
	7	1					3	4
			7	6	4			5
4				5				2
7			2	1	8			
2	3					9	5	
1				8		4		
		5	1			6		

	4		8			9		
		2	6	5				4
6	1		4					5
		8	9				3	
			7	2	8			
	5				3	8		
5					1		9	6
9				8	4	1		
		1			6		4	

How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Horoscope

♒ **Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18** Renovations to your home will be costly, but will pay off in the long run. Try to enlist the help of friends and family to keep the overhead down.

♓ **Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20** Don't let problems you encounter while traveling cause stress. Your health will suffer if you don't relax. Past acquaintances are likely to come back into your life.

♈ **Aries | March 21-April 20** You will have to watch your budget closely. Don't buy expensive items from friends or acquaintances. Channel your thoughts into your job performance.

♉ **Taurus | April 21-May 21** It will be hard to contain your feelings. Poor drivers will push you to the limit. Don't take your frustrations out on the ones you love.

♊ **Gemini | May 22-June 20** You will need to examine your motives. Be sure that you are getting involved in new projects because you believe in them, not because someone else is joining.

♋ **Cancer | June 21-July 22** You can express yourself well at group functions. Don't be afraid to promote your beliefs. You will inspire the people you talk to. Now is the time to take a position of leadership.

♌ **Leo | July 23-Aug. 22** Be careful not to ruffle the feathers of the heavyweights at work. This is the time to work hard and make yourself indispensable, not to push your needs and desires.

♍ **Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22** You just want to enjoy life. Don't hesitate to join groups or get involved in social activities that include colleagues. You need to be around other people to stimulate your imagination.

♎ **Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22** You won't want to deal with other people's problems today, but it would be a good idea to do so if asked.

♏ **Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21** Social activities will be a must. Combine work with pleasure. Put your best foot forward and show your worth. There is much you can accomplish.

♐ **Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21** Put your efforts into money-making ventures. You can earn recognition at work if you present your ideas. Be sure to talk to those in higher positions about your goals and directions.

♑ **Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20** Take some time out to do things with children. They need your love and support more than you think. Your ability to work with your hands should be put to good use.

EUGENIA LAST

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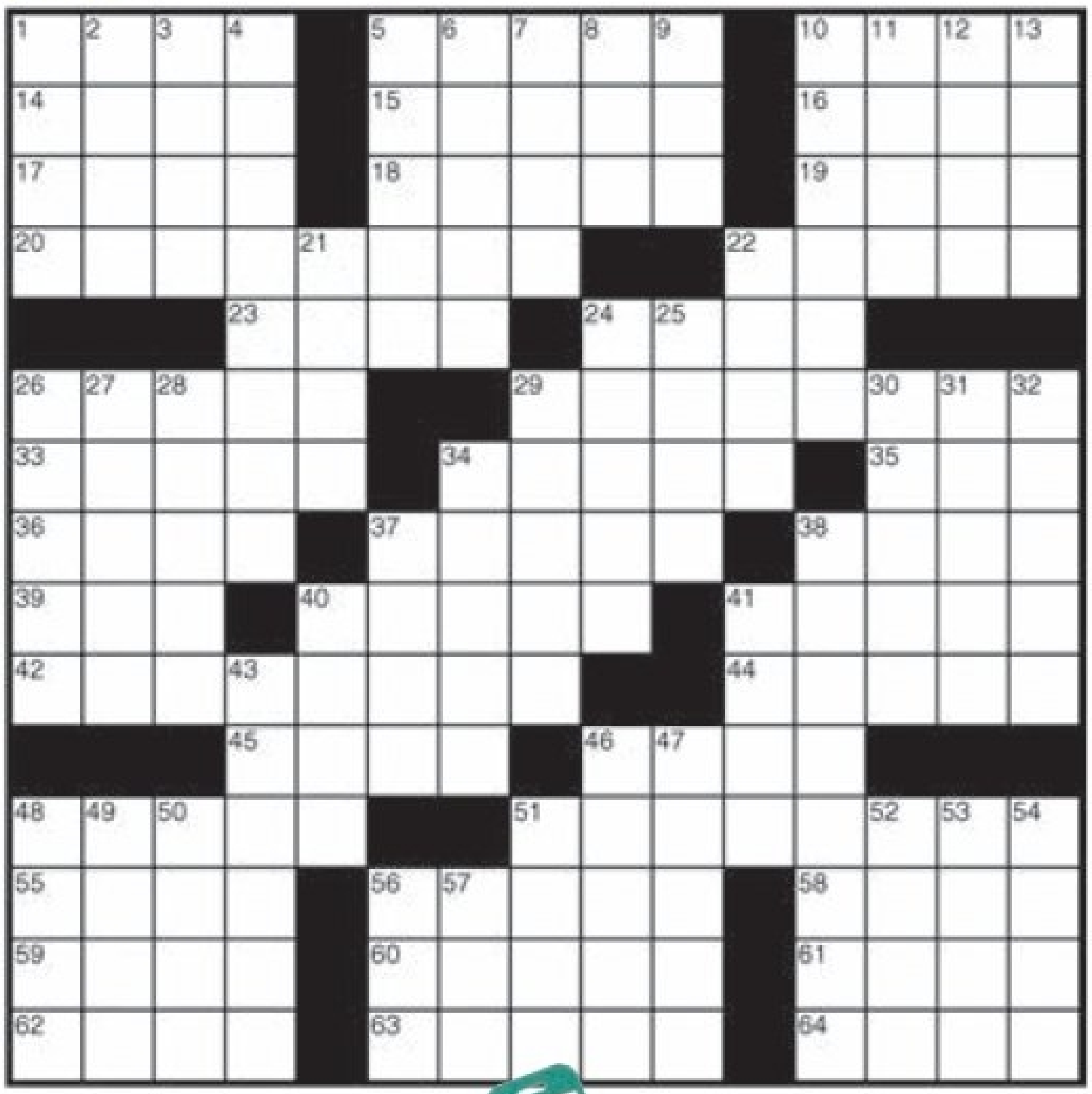
Crossword



Across

1 Chess win
5 Ladybug's lunch
10 Bistro
14 Fe, commonly
15 Allay, as thirst
16 Almond-shaped
17 Wind-driven spray
18 Late- —
19 Zoo staffers
20 Toll roads
22 Laconic
23 Peace offerings
24 Give the bum's rush
26 Apple peeler
29 Open, in a way
33 Love madly
34 Abbot's underling
35 Dash off
36 Ceilings
37 Emblems
38 Fashion
39 Aloha token
40 Become edible
41 Wore the crown
42 Tanning salon purchases
44 Abrasive mineral
45 Crow's-nest cry
46 Zodiac animal
48 Fishtails
51 Rhyming lines
55 Guardian's charge
56 Ends of the Earth
58 Pavlov's name
59 Jai —
60 Make sand from rock
61 Successor to Claudius
62 It may be spliced
63 Deep fissure
64 What mice do

Down

1 Atomizer output
2 Triumphal edifice
3 Barnstorm
4 Software buyers (2 wds.)
5 Musician's org.
6 Gimmicks
7 Bad actors
8 DDE
9 Van — Waals force
10 Begrudges
11 Swear to
12 Diet no-nos
13 Otherwise
21 Became frayed
22 Autocrat of yore
24 Scallion
25 Foreign visitors?
26 Gets boring
27 Farewell
28 "The Kiss" sculptor
29 Sudden impulses
30 Oar pin
31 Comforter stuffing
32 Hard up
34 Orange flower
37 Airport vehicle
38 Muttering
40 Stadium noise
41 Enjoy, as benefits
43 Aberdeen boy
46 Sorority members
47 Crafty moves
48 Pirate's booty
49 Leafy vegetable
50 Persia, today
51 Oversatisfy
52 Two to two
53 Rhett's hangout
54 Six-sided crystals
56 Soup ingredient
57 Poet's eye

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SPORTS

Big 5 weekend

Temple, St. Joe's, UPenn at home

Waiting for Super Bowl Sunday? Why not check out a Big 5 game this weekend? UPenn starts things off at home vs. Dartmouth Friday at 7 p.m. Then Saturday, Temple hosts Tulane and St. Joe's hosts Davidson, both noon starts. Villanova and La Salle play later, on the road.

3 Storylines to watch

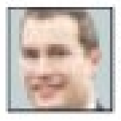
Super Bowl XLIX. It's a clash of former champions in the desert as the Patriots square off against the defending champion Seahawks.

The Patriots and Seahawks share a remarkably similar history heading into their Super Bowl showdown in Glendale, Arizona, this Sunday (6:30 p.m., NBC).

Both teams are coached by men who didn't succeed in the NFL on their first head coaching try, as Pete Carroll failed with the Jets and Patriots, and Bill Belichick failed with the Browns. Both teams are led by quarterbacks who have been doubted and doubted again, as Russell Wilson was thought of as too short to succeed in the NFL and Tom Brady was thought of as an NFL backup at best upon entering the league 15 years ago. Both teams have a bad boy image, as the Seahawks have had multiple PED issues under Carroll's watch and Belichick has had multiple "-Gates" occur under his guidance.

But more than anything else, once you cut through all the off-field drama, the Seahawks and Patriots are both champions. Seattle is looking for its second title in a row. New England is looking for its fourth in the Brady/Belichick era.

Controversies aside, Sunday's football game should be special. The undisputed best two teams in the NFL in the 2014 season will be locking horns for the right to hoist the Lombardi Trophy one more time.



MATT BURKE
@BurkeMetroBos
matthew.burke@metro.us

1 Beast in the Bowl

Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch followed up Tuesday's "I'm here so I don't get fined" speech with the simpler "You know why I'm here" response when questioned by the media on Wednesday. It's possible that Lynch knows something we don't.

Lynch could very well be in Arizona to win the Super Bowl MVP award, a prize that surprisingly hasn't been won by a running back since 1998 when Denver's Terrell Davis was the best player on football's grandest stage.

Lynch would certainly have been named NFC Championship Game MVP if there was such a thing as he ripped off 157 yards on 25 carries and found the end zone once in Seattle's unreal 28-22 OT win over Green Bay a couple weeks back.

Meanwhile, the Patriots have given up big yardage on the ground this season in certain games.

The Chiefs ran wild on New England in that famed Week 4 Monday night Kansas City blowout win, and Baltimore's Justin Forsett dashed for 129 yards on 24 carries in the Pats' narrow 35-31 win over the Ravens in the AFC's Divisional round.

MARSHAWN LYNCH
GETTY IMAGES

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Great unknown

DANNY AMENDOLA

GETTY IMAGES

The Pats are like that MLB playoff team that gets hot in October and has a different player in the lineup step up in each night's victory.

Look at the Pats' last Super Bowl win (10 years ago over the Eagles in Super Bowl XXXIX). Deion Branch, not Brady, was the game's MVP. Getting back to more recent events, running back LaGarrette Blount was the clear standout for the Pats in the AFC Championship Game and slot receiver Danny Amendola broke out of his season-long slump in the Divisional round against Baltimore, catching five balls for 81 yards while scoring two touchdowns.

The Pats, however, may be due for a defensive hero to step up in the Super Bowl. In New England's first Super Bowl victory in the 2001 season, it was cornerback Ty Law who picked off Kurt Warner and returned it 47 yards for a touchdown. If you're a fan of football lineage there's this: Current Pats cornerback Darrelle Revis is, like Law, from Aliquippa, Pennsylvania. And not coincidentally, they both wear No. 24.

3

Muscle Russell

DEVIN MCCOURTY

GETTY IMAGES

Russell Wilson already owns a tag for being a clutch performer, given his run to a Super Bowl title last year and how he's gotten Seattle back to the big game this season. But Wilson has been downright bad in several of the playoff games he's played in his young career. Wilson completed just nine passes and had a passer rating of just 67.6 against the Saints in a Divisional round win last year. Ugly Russell showed up again in this year's postseason as he finished the NFC title game having completed just 14-of-29 for 209 yards, one touchdown and four interceptions. His passer rating was a brutal 44.3. The Pats defense picked off Andrew Luck twice in the AFC title game and forced him to have a 23.0 passer rating. Joe Flacco played great in the Divisional round against New England, but Devin McCourty and Duron Harmon each intercepted the Baltimore signal caller. New England is more than capable of flustering Wilson this Sunday.

Super Bowl predictions

Metro picks the winners for Super Bowl XLIX:

- **Matt Burke:** Pats 24, Seahawks 20 — For the first time, the Patriots have a healthy Rob Gronkowski in the Super Bowl. He continues to dominate.
- **Evan Macy:** Seahawks 20, Pats 14 — The Seattle run defense will make the Pats one-dimensional and the Seahawks' secondary will do the rest.
- **Kristian Dyer:** Pats 23, Seahawks 19 — The Patriots have one of the best red-zone defenses in the NFL. They should be able to hold the Seahawks to field goals.

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Super Bowl betting guide

Breaking down the best bets, the wackiest bets and the most interesting ways to gamble your money on Super Sunday — recreationally speaking, of course. **EVAN MACY**

A wise man once said, "Money won is twice as sweet as money earned." That man would probably have a lot of money at stake this weekend.

According to Wallethub.com, more than $115 million is expected to be wagered on the big game.

You can bet on who wins Super Bowl XLIX. You can bet on the over/under (the number is 47.5 points) and you can bet on the point spread, which happens to be close to even this year.

But with 100 million people expected to watch the big game this year, perhaps a little zaniness is required to keep everyone interested.

Here's a look at some of the typical and not so typical bets you should, or shouldn't make while the Patriots and Seahawks battle for a Super Bowl title Sunday night.

Over/under 47.5 points

47.5

How can you not take the under here? The Seahawks allow less than 20 points per game and the Pats aren't far behind. This game could be a battle in the trenches.
The pick: Less than 47.5 points will be scored.

Brady and Wilson share an 11-year age difference.

Seahawks (+1)

Somehow, the odds have been stacked in the Patriots' favor (though by a slim margin). The Pats have been distracted for two weeks by Deflate-gate antics — how can they not be. And the Seahawks' defense could be among the best ever.

Though injuries on Seattle's defense will be a big factor, if they can stop the Pats' run game and turn them one dimensional they'll give Tom Brady fits.
The pick: Legion of Boom prevails.

+1

Bill Belichick's hoodie

The obvious choice here is gray. But this wager could be more in the locker room attendant's hands than those of the brilliant head coach. It seems pretty obvious he doesn't care what he wears during a game — so it's a toss-up. The odds: Gray -120, Blue even, Red +750.
The pick: Gray.

DON'T FORGET TO PLACE YOUR WAGER ON BILL BELICHICK'S WARDROBE SUNDAY.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Wilson vs. gasoline?

This is an intriguing prop bet: what will be higher, the national average for regular gas Monday in cents, (it was 203.8 cents Thursday) or Russell Wilson's passing yards. In 18 games this season and postseason, Wilson eclipsed 203 yards just eight times. Might have to go with the fuel here.
The pick: Seattle will rely on the run, go with the gas.

203

The anthem

Once again, Bovada.com has a bevy of anthem bets, one of which handicaps Idina Menzel's chances at omitting at least one word from the anthem. But we'll go with the time of the anthem, listed as 2:01. **The pick**: Over 2:01

2:01

Idina Menzel

Katy vs. Gisele

A battle between two beautiful ladies. Will halftime performer Katy Perry be mentioned more in the first half than Gisele Bundchen, Tom Brady's wife? The over/under for each is 2.
The pick: Perry. Everyone loves halftime.

2

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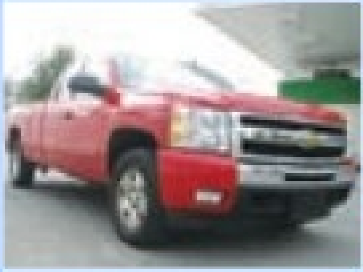

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Counting down the best Super Bowls of all time

NFL. How will Sunday's Super Bowl measure up to the best in the game's 49-year history?

Finally, it is upon us. Around 6:30 P.M. Sunday night, Super Bowl XLIX will kick off and the largest television audience in North America in 2015 will watch. Some for the game, some for the commercials, some for the halftime show.

What they will see is the culmination of two weeks of breathless — and, honestly, remarkably stupid — discussion of Deflate-gate contested in Glendale, Arizona.

And what a show it portends to be. Both the AFC's New England Patriots and NFC's Seattle Seahawks are loaded with star power, from Pete Carroll and Bill Belichick on down.

But will the game live up to the hype? That's the question that is still to be determined. In the meantime, here is a look at Metro's list of the Top 10 Super Bowls:

DENIS GORMAN
@DenisGorman
sports@metro.us

Super Bowl III made Joe Namath a legend. / ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

1

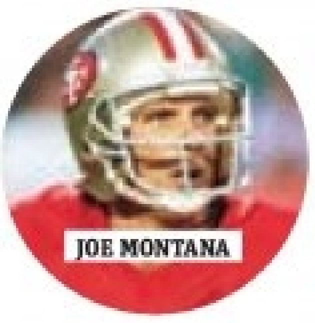
Super Bowl III

This was the game that made the Super Bowl into THE GAME. The AFL champion Jets were 18-point underdogs to the NFL champion Colts. And with good reason. The Colts were 13-1-0 and had scored 402 points while limiting opponents to 10 points per game. But the Jets racked up 337 yards on 74 plays while picking off Colts quarterbacks Earl Morrall and Johnny Unitas four times.

2

Super Bowl XXIII

Among the best-played Super Bowls, it is remembered for Joe Montana connecting with John Taylor on a 10-yard touchdown pass with 34 ticks left.



JOE MONTANA

3

Super Bowl XXV

Widely labeled the most patriotic Super Bowl due to the game coinciding with the first Gulf War, the ground-and-pound Giants kept the ball away from the run-and-shoot Bills, totaling 386 yards on 73 plays. Still Buffalo had a shot to win the game but Scott Norwood's 47-yard field goal went wide right and Bill Parcells had his second Super Bowl.

4

Super Bowl XXXII

A heavyweight title fight in which the Broncos and Packers traded scores throughout, the reigning, defending champion Packers reign ended when Broncos linebacker swatted down Brett Favre's pass attempt to Mark Chmura. Terrell Davis' three touchdown runs set a Super Bowl record, and John Elway won his first title.

5

Super Bowl XXXIV

The saying is winners write the history books. In the case of Super Bowl XXXIV, though, the lasting memory is of Tennessee Titans wide receiver Kevin Dyson stretching the football toward the end zone futilely while wrapped in the grasp of St. Louis Rams linebacker Mike Jones at the one-yard line as time expired.

The next five

6 **Super Bowl XLII:** The game is best remembered for David Tyree's helmet catch, and a defense that sacked Tom Brady five times.

7 **Super Bowl XLVII:** The Ravens celebrated their second world title after fending off the 49ers in the Harbaugh Bowl.

8 **Super Bowl XLIII:** This one was highlighted by Ben Roethlisberger hooking up with Santonio Holmes on a back shoulder fade in the corner of the end zone with 35 seconds as the Steelers held off Arizona's comeback.

9 **Super Bowls X and XIII:** Pittsburgh appeared in and won four Super Bowls in a decade populated by 8-tracks and platform shoes. Two of those wins came at the expense of the Cowboys, who appeared in five Super Bowls in the decade.

10 Super Bowl XLVI: For the second time in five years, it was the Giants who left victorious vs. the favored Pats. Eli Manning completed 30-of-40 passes for 296 yards and one touchdown as he claimed his second Super Bowl MVP.

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2008 Buick Lucerne CXL	Leather, CD/MP3, Navigation	As low as $239/*Month
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2007 Ford Escape XLT	Alloy Wheels, Privacy Glass, Roof Rack	As low as $233/*Month
2008 Chevy Impala LT	Satellite Radio, CD/MP3, Dual A/C	As low as $233/*Month
2007 Cadillac CTS	200 Watt Stereo, Satellite Radio, Alloy Wheels	As low as $219/*Month
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76ers' Carter-Williams continues to get better

NBA. Michael Carter-Williams is looking more and more like a veteran NBA point guard.

Michael Carter-Williams made a loud statement. In arguably his best — and most efficient — game in a 76ers uniform, the second-year point guard displayed an exciting glimpse into the future.

MCW had 14 points, 10 assists, nine rebounds and two blocked shots in 35 minutes as the Sixers throttled the Detroit Pistons, 89-69, Wednesday night at the Wells Fargo Center. Carter-Williams needed only 10 shots from the field while controlling the offense.

Defensively, he was terrific, holding D.J. Augustin to two points on 0-for-7 shooting.

MCW has scored more points in other games, and has compiled triple-doubles, but this was a stellar all-around effort in every facet.

"[Coach Brett Brown] said I controlled the game well, and that's the plan," Carter-Williams said. "I found guys in the right spots and vocally, I was a leader out there. I didn't have to look for him to call plays. I knew what was working and what wasn't. I felt like I was in charge."

MCW posted his eighth double-double, and over his last four games, he's averaging eight assists.

"Michael was a point guard tonight," Brown said. "He still played in a crowd a few times. His presence on the court and his size — he's 6-foot-6 and when he gets a smaller guard in his hip pocket and he can pass and play like he did, he can lock a game down. That's a special quality for a young point guard. He ran the team and controlled the tempo."

Carter-Williams, the reigning Rookie of the Year, continues to improve under Brown's tutelage. It's not an easy task considering the Sixers are the youngest team in NBA history.

It's not like MCW has the likes of LeBron James or Kevin Durant on the court alongside him.

"Michael is doing a great job of running the offense," said Nerlens Noel. "He's learning and we're learning to succeed together. It's great to see positive results.

MCW and Noel will compete in the Rising Stars Challenge during All-Star weekend in Brooklyn. The game will match rookies against second-year players in a different format which will include teams of international competitors.

Before that showcase, MCW will continue to learn. If he continues to perform like he did against the Pistons, the future will be that much brighter.

"I'm just competing and listening to the coaches," MCW said. "It's definitely more fun when you're winning because of the hard work and time that goes into it all. It is more fun when you're on the winning end."

ANDY JASNER
@MetroPhilly
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A look at MCW

Michael Carter-Williams continues to star for the otherwise starless 76ers.

- He didn't play until early November after recovering from offseason shoulder surgery.
- His numbers are close to his Rookie of the Year stats last year, but his assists per game are up (from 6.3 to 7.2) and his scoring is down (16.7 to 15.3 ppg).
- MCW is also shooting worse from the field in his sophomore NBA season, at .383 percent, down from .405.

Michael Carter-Williams has been the 76ers catalyst offensively. / GETTY IMAGES

Eagles make hire

Birds have new VP of player personnel

Chip Kelly now has a No. 2.

After a lengthy search, the Eagles promoted Ed Marynowitz to vice president of player personnel Thursday.

Marynowitz, just 30 years old, joined the Eagles in 2012 as the team's assistant director of pro scouting and was promoted one year later to assistant director of player personnel.

"Ed is someone who has really impressed me going back to my interview process with the Eagles two years ago," Kelly said. "He's very bright, detailed, organized and his vision was aligned with what we want to accomplish. I spoke with a lot of people outside of our organization over the past few weeks and in the end, Ed was the most impressive." METRO

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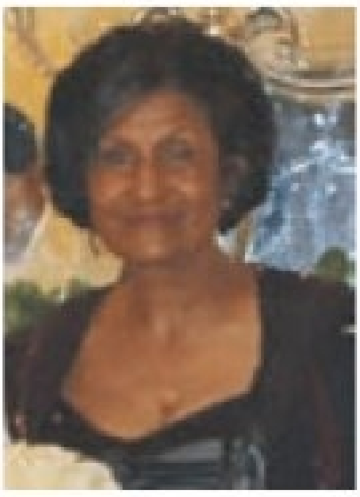

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Notice is hereby given that Chester Charter School for the Arts has released Request for Proposals (RFP's) for various cabling, telecommunications, and Internet access services. Details are provided within the formal posted RFP's, however the school will accept proposals that include compatible equipment/solutions. Interested respondents must have an E-rate SPIN number and adhere to the RFP response instructions. Complete responses must be received on or before 10:00a.m., on Tuesday, February 17, 2015 addressed to the contact person that is given on the first page of the RFP's. To obtain a copy of the RFPs visit www.intelafunds.net and got o "Bid Opportunities". Questions regarding this request can be sent to Remy Bibaud at remy@intelafunds.net or by calling 412-231-1515.

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Notice is hereby given that the DELAWARE VALLEY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL has released Request for Proposals (RFP's) for various WI-FI networking equipment, cabling services and support services. Details are provided within the formal posted RFP's, however the school will accept proposals that include compatible equipment/solutions. Interested respondents must have an E-rate SPIN number and adhere to the RFP response instructions. Complete responses must be received on or before 10AM E.S.T. on February 3, 2015 addressed to the contact person that is given on the first page of the RFP's. To obtain a copy of the RFPs visit www.intelafunds.net and go to "Bid Opportunities". Questions regarding this request can be sent to eratesupport2015@intelafunds.net

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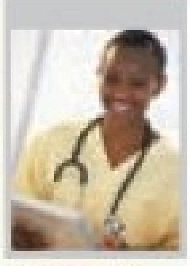

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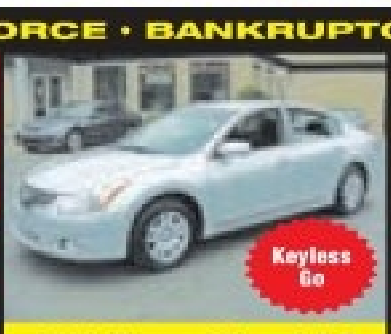

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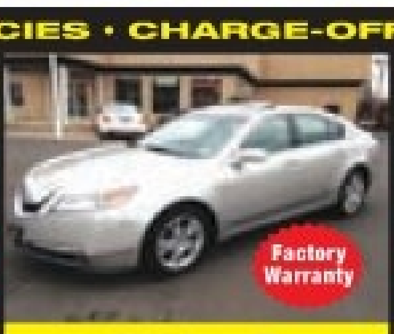

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AN OPEN LETTER TO PUNXSUTAWNEY PHIL

Dear Phil,

Big day coming up. Lots of people are counting on you. We just want to say, no pressure. You might see your shadow, and we know that's terrifying. Actually, there are shadows everywhere. So don't overthink it. Just get up there, see a shadow, and run for your life.

Why? Because we don't want spring to come early — six more weeks of winter is the way to go. We know what spring really is: a monster in a pretty disguise. Spring makes you want to claw your own eyes out. Endless sneezing has strangers blessing you. Strangers. And even the nice soft things, like tissues, make you raw and red. It's a cruel tease of a season. And a few little flowers don't make up for it.

Spring must be stopped, Phil. You know what you need to do.

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